



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Huizenga
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Todd Young
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable David Joyce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs of the Congressional Great Lakes Task Force:

As federal representatives of the Great Lakes region and members of leadership of the bipartisan Senate and House Great Lakes Task Forces, your commitment to the environmental quality and health of the Great Lakes ecosystem is highly valued and commended. As Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, I share your deep and sustained interest in ensuring that Asian carp do not successfully become established in the Great Lakes.

As a federal partner, EPA has historically served as Co-Chair of the multi-agency Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (ACRCC). The ACRCC provides oversight and interagency coordination across state, federal and international boundaries and identifies activities critical to preventing the establishment of Asian carp in the Great Lakes.

In an effort to keep you updated on EPA's involvement in the ACRCC, I have directed EPA Region 5 Administrator Kurt Thiede to enhance the focus on and involvement in the ACRCC and its essential mission. In fulfillment of this directive, the Co-Chair role will now be assumed by EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) Director, Mr. Christopher Korleski. Through the leadership functions associated with the Co-Chair role, EPA will, in close cooperation with its ACRCC partners, continue to guide and closely monitor the important activities and efforts of the ACRCC. Moreover, EPA will be uniquely positioned to coordinate across the ACRCC on certain



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activities, such as environmental permitting, that may prove essential to Asian carp prevention and management.

I also note that the GLNPO Director's role as ACRCC Co-Chair compliments EPA oversight of the implementation of the recently released Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Action Plan III, which covers Fiscal Years 2020 – 2024. Asian carp prevention activities are directly addressed under Focus Area 2 of the Action Plan, and EPA expects that significant amounts of GLRI funding will continue to be targeted towards Asian carp prevention and management activities. The GLNPO's location in the Great Lakes basin helps to ensure enhanced communication and coordination with its federal, state, tribal, local, and other partners who will be essential to accomplishing the objectives set forth in Action Plan III, including those pertaining to Asian carp.

I commend the relationship established between EPA and its ACRCC partners and the leadership and members of the Congressional Great Lakes Task Force, and I look forward to the implementation of a successful, long-term approach that will prevent Asian carp from establishing in the Great Lakes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. Wheeler', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew R. Wheeler